Occupational Therapy

Degree Offered

- Current Degrees Offered: Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) and Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD)

Introduction

In the fall of 1993, the West Virginia Board of Trustees approved the establishment of a new master’s degree program at WVU, leading to an entry-level master’s degree in occupational therapy. WVU accepted its first students into the professional program in the fall semester of 1996. The academic and fieldwork program requires three years to complete. Prior to application, students are required to complete several prerequisite courses, which in most instances will take two years to fulfill.

The Profession of Occupational Therapy

Occupational therapy is the only profession that helps people across the lifespan to do the things they want and need to do through the therapeutic use of meaningful daily activities (occupations). Occupational therapists use the “occupations” of self-care, work, and play/leisure activities to increase independence, enhance development, and/or prevent disability. To achieve these goals occupational therapists may also adapt the task or the environment. Occupational therapists enable people of all ages to live life to its fullest by helping them promote health, and prevent—or live better with—injury, illness, or disability. Common occupational therapy interventions include helping children with disabilities to participate fully in school and social situations, helping people recovering from injury to regain skills, and providing supports for older adults experiencing physical and cognitive changes.

Occupational therapists work in a variety of settings. These could include hospitals, rehabilitation centers, nursing facilities, home health, outpatient clinics, private practice, school systems, private organizations, industry, and community agencies such as return to work programs, prisons, and community settings. The number of different places where therapists work is growing every year.

Accreditation Status MOT

WVU’s Division of Occupational Therapy has been granted accreditation status by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) located at 6116 Executive Boulevard, Suite 200, North Bethesda, MD 20852-4929. ACOTE’s phone number, c/o AOTA, is (301) 652-AOTA. The OT program at WVU was initially awarded accreditation in 1998 and awarded re-accreditation in 2013. The next scheduled onsite visit for accreditation will be in 2023-2024. ACOTE information may be accessed at www.acoteonline.org.

Graduates of the program are able to sit for the national certification examination for the occupational therapist administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT) exam at: https://secure.nbcot.org/data/schoolstats.aspx

What to Expect

Like many professional programs, the curriculum in the occupational therapy program is fixed and intense. The first professional year, which begins in the summer with basic sciences coursework relevant to the profession and practice of occupational therapy. Immersion in practice occurs from the first fall semester onward through integrated experiential, simulated, Level I and Level II fieldwork experiences. Coursework includes hands-on learning and interprofessional experiences that are directly linked to academic content, theory, and research.

Students in the program are required to participate in community service activities and the School of Medicine’s laptop computer purchase lease-to-own program, which provides each student with a state-of-the-art computer that contains course and program-relevant software.

Students in occupational therapy must obtain a grade of at least C or a Pass in all professional courses. In addition occupational therapy students must maintain an OT coursework GPA of 3.0 or higher while in the OT Program. Since professional courses are offered once per year and are specifically sequenced, course failure may result in program dismissal or the delay of fieldwork and graduation.

Students in the OT Program must complete all didactic coursework and all fieldwork within a period of five years after commencing the occupational therapy program. Furthermore, all Level II Fieldwork must be completed within eighteen months following completion of academic coursework while remaining within the five-year time frame.
Housing and Travel for Clinical Fieldwork

The professional curriculum includes two off-campus, full-time clinical experiences known as Level II Fieldwork. Clinical fieldwork is an essential part of professional training and required by national OT educational standards. Students are assigned to Level I and Level II fieldwork sites locally, and at locations across the United States. Assignment to specialty fieldwork or elective internship is done based on student interest and site availability. Students can expect that at least some of their placements will be at a distance from home. Students are responsible for any related fieldwork experience expenses such as transportation, housing and/or meals, and for making their own housing and travel arrangements for clinical fieldwork experiences. Information about housing options for affiliations is available from the academic fieldwork coordinator.

Background Checks

A felony conviction may impact a graduate’s ability to take the NBCOT (National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc.) examination and/or obtaining a state license. For further information on NBCOT’s Character Review Program, interested parties can obtain information from that Board on their web site at: http://www.nbcot.org.

Students enrolled in the WVU OT education program must complete drug testing and background checks to qualify for clinical and fieldwork.

FACULTY

CHAIR

• Steven Wheeler - PhD, OTR/L, CBIS (Virginia Commonwealth University)
  Professor and MOT Program Director

PROFESSOR

• Anne Cronin - Ph.D., OTR/L, ATP, FAOTA (University of Florida)

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

• Amanda Acord-Vira - Ed.D., OTR/L (West Virginia University)
• Amy Burt - Ed.D, OTR/L (West Virginia University)
• Diana Davis - Ph.D. OTR/L (West Virginia University)
  Vice-Chairperson, OTD Program Director
• Garth Graebe - MOT, OTR/L (West Virginia University)
• Randy P. McCombie - Ph.D., OTR/L (Loyola University of Chicago)
• Rondalyn Whitney - Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA (Trident International University)

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

• Brandy Brown - O.T.D., OTR/L (Chatham University)
• Brandon "Seth" Powers - MOT, OTR/L, CHT (West Virginia University)
• Brian Scaife - OTD, OTR/L (Chatham University)
• Sue Ann Woods - MOT, OTR/L, CHT (West Virginia University)

Admissions for the 2021 MOT

Students typically spend the first two years of undergraduate study completing pre-requisite courses. The recommended undergraduate degree is Exercise Physiology as it contains all of the pre-requisite courses.

Students may apply to the MOT using the OTCAS application system. The application will be open from November 15 – February 15 each year and each class starts in May.

Course information for the master of occupational therapy degree can be found on the following website: http://medicine.hsc.wvu.edu/ot.

Admissions Requirements

In order to be eligible for admission and an interview for the MOT 2022 program, students must complete the following:

• MOT application through OTCAS between November 15-February 15
• Completion of 40 hours of observation with at least two different occupational therapists in at least two different sites
• Two letters of recommendation provided by individuals with knowledge of the individual and their qualities and qualifications that prepare them for OT.
• Overall and pre-requisite GPA of 3.0
• The following courses must be completed prior to admission to the program. Course work will only be accepted from an accredited institution in the United States. Applicants must complete each course with a grade of “C” or higher (including any remaining GEF courses).

Students applying to the program may only be enrolled in a maximum of 2 pre-requisite courses in the Spring semester prior to the start of the program. This does not include any remaining GEF courses.

• English Composition - 6 credits
• Developmental Psychology - 3 credits
• Abnormal Psychology - 3 credits
• Introduction to Sociology or Anthropology - 3 credits
• Biology with lab - 6-8 credits
• Statistics - 3 credits
• Physiology - 3 or 4 credits
• Medical Terminology - 1 credit
• Completion of General Education Foundations - 9 to 12 credits

Note: Some of the courses may have their own departmental pre-requisite requirements. Please check with individual departments to ensure that you have completed all requirements.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS 2023-2024
The Admission Requirements above will be the same for the 2023-2024 Academic Year.

Major Code: 8336

Click here to view the Suggested Plan of Study (p. )

General Education Foundations
Please use this link to view a list of courses that meet each GEF requirement. (http://registrar.wvu.edu/gef/) 

NOTE: Some major requirements will fulfill specific GEF requirements. Please see the curriculum requirements listed below for details on which GEFs you will need to select.

General Education Foundations
F1 - Composition & Rhetoric 3-6
ENGL 101 & ENGL 102 Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric and Composition, Rhetoric, and Research
or ENGL 103 Accelerated Academic Writing
F2A/F2B - Science & Technology 4-6
F3 - Math & Quantitative Reasoning 3-4
F4 - Society & Connections 3
F5 - Human Inquiry & the Past 3
F6 - The Arts & Creativity 3
F7 - Global Studies & Diversity 3
F8 - Focus (may be satisfied by completion of a minor, double major, or dual degree) 9
Total Hours 31-37

Please note that not all of the GEF courses are offered at all campuses. Students should consult with their advisor or academic department regarding the GEF course offerings available at their campus.

Curriculum Requirements
University Requirements 28
Human Performance & Health Program Requirements/Prerequisites 31
Human Performance & Health Major Requirements/Undergraduate OT Courses 61
Total Hours 120
### University Requirements

General Education Foundation (GEF) 1,2,3,4,5,6,7, and 8 (31-37 Credits)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding GEF Requirements 5, 6</td>
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</table>

**WVUE 191**  
First Year Seminar  
1

**General Electives**  
21

**Total Hours**  
28

### Human Performance & Health Program Requirements/Prerequisite course work for OT

An minimum overall program/pre-requisite course work grade point average of 3.0.

Select one of the following: 4-8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 101</td>
<td>General Biology 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>&amp; 101L</td>
<td>and General Biology 1 Laboratory</td>
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<tr>
<td>&amp; BIOL 102</td>
<td>and General Biology 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>&amp; BIOL 102L</td>
<td>and General Biology 2 Laboratory</td>
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<tr>
<td>or BIOL 115</td>
<td>Principles of Biology</td>
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<td>&amp; 115L</td>
<td>and Principles of Biology Laboratory</td>
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<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 101</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 102</td>
<td>Composition, Rhetoric, and Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>or ENGL 103</td>
<td>Accelerated Academic Writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>OTH 201</td>
<td>Medical Terminology for Occupational Therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSIO 241</td>
<td>Elementary Physiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>or PSIO 441</td>
<td>Mechanisms of Body Function</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 241</td>
<td>Introduction to Human Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 281</td>
<td>Introduction to Abnormal Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 101</td>
<td>Introduction to Sociology</td>
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<tr>
<td>or ANTH 105</td>
<td>Introduction to Anthropology</td>
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<tr>
<td>STAT 211</td>
<td>Elementary Statistical Inference</td>
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</table>

**Total Hours**  
31

*PSYC 101 Introduction to Psychology serves as a prerequisite course and must be passed prior to enrolling in this course. Three credits of general electives will need to be used to take this course.*

### Human Performance & Health Major Requirements/Undergraduate OT Courses

**Undergraduate Occupational Therapy Courses**

Minimum grade of C required.

Minimum GPA of 3.0 required

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OTH 330</td>
<td>Clinical Reasoning Foundations</td>
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<td>OTH 360</td>
<td>Scientific Inquiry for OT 1</td>
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<td>OTH 361</td>
<td>Scientific Inquiry for OT 2</td>
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<td>OTH 370</td>
<td>Theories and Science of Occupation</td>
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<tr>
<td>OTH 497</td>
<td>Research (Graded as Pass/Fail)</td>
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<td>OTH 502</td>
<td>Foundations of OT Intervention</td>
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<td>OTH 504</td>
<td>Anatomic Foundations in OT</td>
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<td>OTH 505</td>
<td>Disruptions in Occupational Performance</td>
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<td>Functional Kinesiology in Occupational Therapy</td>
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<td>Developmental Life Tasks</td>
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<td>Neurobiologic Foundations</td>
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<td>OTH 510</td>
<td>Occupational Performance Evaluation 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>OTH 511</td>
<td>Occupational Performance Evaluation 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>OTH 515</td>
<td>Interventions Across the Lifespan 1</td>
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OTH 516  Interventions Across the Lifespan 2  4
OTH 517  Interventions Across the Lifespan 3  4
OTH 532  Clinical Reasoning for Groups 3  3
OTH 584  Level 1 Fieldwork 1 Clinical Skills  2
OTH 585  Level 1 Fieldwork 2 (OTH 516 Interventions Across the Lifespan 2 (4), OTH 431 Clinical Reasoning Application (2))  2

Total Hours  61

SUGGESTED PLAN OF STUDY

First Year

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
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<th>Spring</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Summer</th>
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<td>PSYC 101 (GEF 4)</td>
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Second Year

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<tr>
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<td>3 ENGL 102 (GEF 1)</td>
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<td>3 OTH 504</td>
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Third Year

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<td>OTH 330</td>
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<td>3 OTH 516</td>
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<td>4 OTH 584</td>
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Fourth Year

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<td>OTH 585</td>
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Total credit hours: 114-120

Major Learning Outcomes

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

• Program content based on a broad foundation in the liberal arts and sciences. A strong foundation in the biological, physical, social, and behavioral sciences supports an understanding of occupation across the lifespan.
• The basic tenants of occupational therapy including its history, philosophy, foundation in occupation, and models of occupational performance.
• The process of screening, evaluation, and referral as related to occupational performance and participation that is culturally relevant and based on theoretical perspectives, models of practice, frames of reference, and available evidence.
• The process of formulation and implementation of the therapeutic intervention plan to facilitate occupational performance and participation that is culturally relevant; reflective of current occupational therapy practice; based on available evidence; and based on theoretical perspectives, models of practice, and frames of reference.
• Context of service delivery information and skills including the knowledge and understanding of the various contexts, such as professional, social, cultural, political, economic, and ecological, in which occupational therapy services are provided.
• Leadership and management skills including principles and applications of leadership and management theory.
• Promotion of scholarly endeavors including describing and interpreting the scope of the profession, establishing new knowledge, and interpreting and applying this knowledge to practice.
• Professional ethics, values, and responsibilities, including an understanding and appreciation of ethics and values of the profession of occupational therapy.

OTH 100. Introduction to Occupational Therapy Profession. 1 Hour.
Provides students with an introduction to the profession of occupational therapy including knowledge base, practice areas, professional education and professional organizations. Intended for pre- and non-majors.

OTH 191. First-Year Seminar. 1-3 Hours.
Engages students in active learning strategies that enable effective transition to college life at WVU. Students will explore school, college and university programs, policies and services relevant to academic success. Provides active learning activities that enable effective transition to the academic environment. Students examine school, college and university programs, policies and services.

OTH 201. Medical Terminology for Occupational Therapy. 1 Hour.
The study of medical terminology with a focus on how terminology is used in the field of occupational therapy.

OTH 301. Professional Foundations of OT. 2 Hours.
PR: OTH student status. Introduction to fundamentals of professional behavior for the occupational therapist. Includes units on history, communication, documentation, ethics, interdisciplinary teamwork, and licensure requirements.

OTH 302. Clinical Reasoning in OT 1. 2 Hours.
PR: MOT Student Status. Critically interpret evidenced based data, theory and frames of reference to evaluate and justify occupational therapy clinical reasoning in applied clinical and case-based contexts, integrating information from courses in the professional curriculum.

OTH 303. Functional Movement Across the Lifespan. 2 Hours.
PR: OTH student status. Including acquisition of developmental patterns, motor control, motor skill acquisition. This course also provides an overview of the effects of normative processes of aging on neuromotor patterns in occupational performance.

OTH 304. Physical Impairment and Function 1. 4 Hours.
Introduction to disease and injury and its functional implications on OT treatment. Emphasis is placed on the impact of orthopedic and general disorders on performance in areas of occupation, remediation, or compensation of these impairments.

OTH 306. Occupational Performance Eval 1. 4 Hours.
PR: MOT Student Status. Standardized and non-standardized screening and assessment of occupational performance in basic and instrumental activities of daily living, work, rest and sleep, performance patterns, and contexts and environments across the lifespan.

OTH 307. Neurobiologic Foundations. 4 Hours.
PR: OTH student status. Basic and clinical applications or neuroanatomy and neurology. Includes lectures on neurophysiological basis of physical and occupational therapy practice.

OTH 308. Evaluation Procedures. 3 Hours.

OTH 309. The Brain and Occupation in Occupational Therapy. 1 Hour.
Introduction to brain-behavior relationships and the study of cognitive, behavioral, and perceptual impairments that accompany common adult neurological conditions. Emphasis is on these impairments and the manner in which they impact human occupation and societal participation.

OTH 310. Critical Reasoning in Occupational Therapy. 3 Hours.
An introduction to critical reasoning analysis, and review relevant to Occupational Therapy. Students will critically analyze research articles and editorials specific to Occupational Therapy, in combination with additional writing assignments.

OTH 311. Anatomic Foundations of OT. 4 Hours.

OTH 312. Functional Kinesiology in Occupational Therapy. 2 Hours.
OT 321. Development Life Tasks. 3 Hours.
PR: OTH student status. Life-span human development across cognitive, psychosocial and neuromotor domains with particular emphasis on applications to physical or occupational therapy interventions. Includes focus on cultural influences in health and illness.

OT 325. Interventions Across the Lifespan 2. 4 Hours.
PR: OTH 304 with a minimum grade of C- and MOT Student Status. Intervention planning of occupational performance in instrumental activities of daily living, work, education, social participation, performance patterns, and contexts and environments across the lifespan.

OT 330. Clinical Reasoning Foundations. 2 Hours.
PR: MOT Student Status. Critically interpret evidenced based data, theory and frames of reference to evaluate and justify occupational therapy clinical reasoning in applied clinical and case-based contexts, integrating information from courses in the professional curriculum.

OT 360. Scientific Inquiry for OT 1. 3 Hours.
PR: MOT Student Status. Integrates student prior knowledge of research process into the scholarship of the profession. Survey methodological considerations in the design of research, ways of evaluating research and practice, and ethical considerations in research.

OT 361. Scientific Inquiry for OT 2. 3 Hours.
PR: OTH 360 with a minimum grade of C- and OT Student Status. Advances understanding of theory-based research, methodological considerations in the design of research, ways of evaluating practice, and approaches to analyzing qualitative and quantitative data. Along with Scientific Inquiry for OT 1 provides the foundation for the students to launch their scholarly projects.

OT 370. Theories and Science of Occupation. 3 Hours.
PR: MOT Student Status. Introduction and understanding of the concepts of occupation, occupational science and history of occupational therapy, students will learn to view the world through an occupational lens. Introduction to the process of theory development and basic theories from occupational therapy and a variety of related fields including psychology, sociology, anthropology, and how they are applied to understand human occupation.

OT 384. Level 1 Fieldwork 1. 1,2 Hour.
Clinical instruction in the occupational therapy process. OT documentation, basic measurement skills, experiences with people with disabilities, and participation in professional activities. (Grading will be pass/fail.).

OT 385. Level 1 Fieldwork 2. 1,2 Hour.
PR: OTH student status. Optional third short-term fieldwork experience, minimum 40 hours. Student will assist in collaboration of learning objectives. (Grading will be pass/fail.).

OT 386. Level 1 Fieldwork 3. 1,2 Hour.
PR: OTH student status. Students will be provided with fieldwork experiences in occupational therapy processes. (Grading will be pass/fail.).

OT 387. Level 1 Fieldwork 4. 1,2 Hour.
Clinical instruction in the occupational therapy process, OT documentation, basic evaluation and assessment skills, experiences with people with disabilities, and participation in professional activities.

OT 400. Assistive Technology Practicum. 3 Hours.
PR: OTH 402 with a minimum grade of C- and consent. Students will learn through engaging in hands-on service at the West Virginia Department of Education’s annual summer camp for assistive technology, Camp Gizmo. During the camp experience, students will be partnered with AT professionals who will guide the practicum experience.

OT 401. Physical Impairment and Function 2. 4 Hours.
PR: OTH 304 and OTH student status. Study of neurological injury and its functional implications on occupations. Emphasis is placed on evaluation of performance in areas of occupation and performance skills and remediation, or compensation of these limitations or impairments.

OT 402. Principles of Assistive Technology. 3 Hours.
PR: OTH 321 or PR or CONC: SPED 304 or DISB 380 with a minimum grade of C-. Covers the potential of assistive technology to enhance the lives of persons with disabilities. The course provides an overview of common AT application will discuss growing trends in the field.

OT 403. Intro to Pediatrics in OT. 2 Hours.
PR: OTH 303 and OTH 321. Orientation to pediatric practice. Examines pediatric development beginning in utero, treatment techniques, standardized and non-standardized pediatric evaluations, documentation, and programming.

OT 405. Upper Extremity Rehabilitation. 3 Hours.
PR: OTH 407 and OTH student status. Provides a holistic approach to occupational therapy evaluation and treatment of the upper extremity including common diagnoses and appropriate interventions including physical agent modalities, occupation-based interventions, and splinting.

OT 406. Upper Extremity Rehabilitation Lab. 1 Hour.
PR or CONC: OTH 405 and OTH student status. Laboratory activities that supplement and complement the material covered in OTH 405 Upper Extremity Rehabilitation. Students will assess for, design, fabricate, apply, and fit orthoses and devices. The safe and effective application of superficial thermal agents, deep thermal agents, electrotherapeutic agents, and mechanical devices will be covered.

OT 408. Physical Impairment and Function 3. 3 Hours.
PR: OTH 304 and OTH 401 and major status. Study of chronic neurological diseases and the functional implications on occupation. Emphasis is placed on evaluation and Occupational Therapy treatment in areas of performance skills, occupations and participation. Students complete the capstone client care experience.
OTH 409. Occupational Performance Evaluation. 3 Hours.
PR: OTH 406 with a minimum grade of C- and MOT Student Status. Standardized and non-standardized screening and assessment of the following areas: sensory neurobehavioral, cognition, psychological/ emotional, developmental, play, leisure, social participation and education inclusive of values, beliefs, and spirituality as they impact occupational performance across the lifespan.

OTH 416. Professional Decision-Making. 2 Hours.
PR: OTH student status. Students are provided with opportunities to develop critical thinking, clinical reasoning, and decision-making skills in occupational therapy. Emphasis is on autonomous practice and referral decisions.

OTH 417. Occupational Therapy in Geriatrics. 3 Hours.

OTH 419. Professional Values. 3 Hours.
PR: OTH student status. An introduction to ethics and how it specifically applies to rural health and life in West Virginia. Students will be given an opportunity to explore their own conceptions of ethics in health care.

OTH 423. Interventions Across the Lifespan. 3 Hours.
PR: OTH 325 with a minimum grade of C- and MOT Student Status. Critical reasoning, goal writing, documentation, and intervention planning on client factors and performance skills addressing neuromusculoskeletal and movement related functions, cardiovascular and respiratory functions, motor skills incorporating performance patterns, and contexts and environments across the lifespan.

OTH 430. Occupational Therapy in Mental Health. 3 Hours.

OTH 431. Clinical Reasoning in OT. 2 Hours.
PR: MOT Student Status. Using the Occupational Therapy Practice Framework and the OT Code of Ethics, integrating occupation-based models, theory and frames of reference, students will apply principles of critical thinking to case-based problem solving. This course is designed to integrate information from prior courses in the professional curriculum.

OTH 432. Occupational Therapy Interventions in Mental Health. 3 Hours.
PR: OTH student status. Occupational therapy interventions in mental health commonly used by occupational therapists in the field of mental health. Emphasis on group processes, life skills, reintegration strategies.

OTH 435. Therapeutic Activity. 3 Hours.
PR: OTH student status. Students will develop skills in performance component analysis, performance context analysis, and occupational performance analysis.

OTH 440. Cognition and Perception in Occupational Therapy. 2 Hours.
PR: OTH student status. Study of cognitive and perceptual impairments that accompany common adult neurological conditions. Emphasis is on application of occupational therapy assessment and treatment principles to understand the impact of impairments on functional performance and societal participation.

OTH 480. Current Topics in Occupational Therapy. 1-3 Hours.
PR: OTH student status. (Not to exceed 18 hours.) A seminar course designed to provide a forum for discussing the frontiers of the occupational therapy profession. Topics may include: research in progress, new developments, and salient professional issues.

OTH 493. Special Topics. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. Investigation of topics not covered in regularly scheduled courses.

OTH 495. Independent Study. 1-6 Hours.
Faculty supervised study of topics not available through regular course offerings.

OTH 497. Research. 1-6 Hours.
Independent research projects.